



South Hills Hams Requested to Assist Authorities for Y2K

A request has been received from the Mt. Lebanon Emergency Management Agency (MLEMA) for area Amateur Radio Operators to assist the municipal officials in Y2K contingency planning and possible deployment into Mt. Lebanon neighborhoods. MLEMA personnel and the officials of the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. (WASH) are currently evaluating just how and when the area's hams could be effectively utilized.

While still in the planning phases, it is anticipated that 20-25 volunteers will ultimately be needed for the evening of 31 December in a wide array of roles; These individuals will likely be placed in strategic areas throughout Mt. Lebanon in order to provide alternate means of communications should there be any disruption in regular communications services. Training is to be provided, with several sessions being dedicated to familiarizing the amateurs with the community and the agencies they will be supporting. The 146.955(-) and 442.550(+) repeaters have been offered to MLEMA for however long they are needed.

Further details will be forthcoming in the very near future. If you, or any other hams that you know of would be interested in assisting WASH and MLEMA in the Y2K event, please contact Steve Lane, W3SRL via phone at (412) 341-1043, or e-mail at slane@adelphia.net.

— Steve Lane W3SRL, VP/Secretary,
Wireless Association of South Hills N3SH/WA3SH

Next Meeting: September 9th, 1999

The next monthly meeting of the Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. will be Thursday, September 9th, at 7:00 PM at the John McMillan Presbyterian Church, 875 Clifton Road in Bethel Park. Talk-in on the 146.955 N3RNX/R Repeater.

Guest speaker and topic(s) was not set at deadline. But we will be talking about plans for the fall, the Pa QSO Party and ARRL Sweepstakes, WASHfest 2000 plans, and more...

All radio amateurs & interested guests are, of course, invited! See you there!

Do YOU Plan to QSO?

With six weeks (at deadline) to go, many WASH members are going full speed ahead with their plans for the 1999 Pennsylvania QSO Party.

Are you joining us in all of the fun & excitement?
Don't be left out!

At present, W3SRL will be running WA3SH as a multi-operator effort, either from his home or running several counties mobile. W3WH is planning to operate from his home in Washington County; N3KEH, & W3RJM are expected on from Allegheny County, and N3WAV & K3WR from Westmoreland. WN3VAW isn't sure if he'll be home or portable... yet.

If you know you're going to be on, make sure you inform Don N3KEH. If you'd like to operate (no experience necessary!) but don't have the ticket or station to use, let N3KEH know so that we can hook you up with one of the upcoming multi-op stations or do whatever we can to help out!

And... we're waiting on word from W3HDH, but one of the major plaques may be in need of sponsors — and we're first in line to take it over!

Who's going to hold the WASH club high score in 1999? Only one way to find out... be part of it!

— Ron Notarius WN3VAW, President
Wireless Association of South Hills N3SH/WA3SH

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Schedule of Events

- N3SH/WA3SH WASH Club Net, 9:00 PM ET Sunday Nights on the 146.955 & 443.650 Repeaters

NCS Schedule:

- ⇒ September 5th: Mark N3RDV
- ⇒ September 12th: Frank N3XI

⇒ September 19th: Bob N3WAV

⇒ September 26th: TBA

LOOKING AHEAD:

- CA QSO Party October 2 - 3
- PA QSO Party October 9 - 10

Is there a SWPA club meeting or activity should be listed that's not here? Contact **WN3VAW** prior to deadline to have your radio events & club meetings included in our calendar!

September 1999

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 Allegheny Co ARES Net W3KWH Social Night | 2 WACOM Meeting | 3 Elco ARS Meeting | 4 RA Erie VE Test Uniontown Hamfest CCCC PSK31 Contest NA Sprint CW All Asian DX Phone |
| 5 Ellwood City ARA Meeting CCCC PSK31 Contest NA Sprint CW All Asian DX Phone | 6 Labor Day Breezeshooters Net GPVHFS Meeting Labor Day CW Sprint | 7 Foothills ARC Meeting | 8 Allegheny Co ARES Net W3KWH Social Night NHARC Meeting | 9 WASH Meeting 7 PM, John McMillan Presbyterian Church | 10 | 11 Rosh Hashanah Erie Hamfest NA Sprint Phone ARRL VHF QSO Party IL QSO Party |
| 12 Rosh Hashanah Butler Hamfest N1H Special Event Stn. NA Sprint Phone ARRL VHF QSO Party IL QSO Party | 13 Breezeshooters Net ARL of Lawrence Co Meeting | 14 On This Date, Nothing Special is Happening | 15 Allegheny Co ARES Net W3KWH Social Night | 16 Breezeshooters Dinner Triple "A" ARA Meeting | 17 2 Rivers ARC Meeting YRLR Howdy Days | 18 Buffalo Hamfest YLR Howdy Days QCWA QSO Party WA State Salmon Run TN QSO Party |
| 19 Elk Co ARA Meeting SWPA Packet Group York Hamfest Del. Valley RA Hamfest USAF QSO Party | 20 Yom Kippur Breezeshooters Net | 21 Steel City ARC Meeting | 22 Allegheny Co ARES Net NHARC Activity Night | 23 Autumn Begins SHARC Meeting | 24 Leaf Raking Begins | 25 SJRA Hamfest CO/RJ WW RTTY Heart of Dixie QSO Party 50 MHz Fall Sprint |
| 26 FAR Hamfest, Bowie MD CO/RJ WW RTTY Heart of Dixie QSO Party 50 MHz Fall Sprint | 27 Breezeshooters Net 144 MHz Fall Sprint | 28 Triangle ARC Meeting Mercer Co ARC Meeting | 29 Allegheny Co ARES Net W3KWH Social Night | 30 [No, WACOM meets NEXT week!] | 10/1 Elco ARS Meeting | 10/2 Ca QSO Party RA Erie VE Test One More Week to the 1999 PA QSO Party! |

WASH 1999 OFFICERS

Executive Committee:

- President Ron Notarius WN3VAW
- VP/Secretary Steve Lane W3SRL
- VP/Treasurer Mark Stabryla N3RDV

And We Couldn't Do It Without:

- N3SH & WA3SH Trustee Steve Lane W3SRL
- VE Team Liaison Bob Sanford AA3FI
- Club Communications Bob Sanford AA3FI
- Club Quartermaster Harold Rosenberger KB3CPI
- N3SH/WA3SH WASH Net Managers

2 Meter FM Don Vollant N3KEH

10 Meter Digital John Benitez KE3XB

South Hills Hamfest Co-Chairman Steve Lane W3SRL

(**WASHfest 2000**)

Field Day Chairman Bill Hill W3WH

PA QSO Party Coordinator Greg Babin KQ3DX

Club-Affiliated Repeaters:

Mt. Lebanon N3RN/R 146.955 - PL 131.8

Mt. Lebanon W3SRL/R 442.550 + PL 131.8

Canonsburg N3FFP/R 443.650 + PL 131.8

N3SH/WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every Sunday Night, 9:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 repeater, usually followed by the 10 Meter SSB Informal Net on 28.469 MHz.

The **10 Meter Digital N3SH/WA3SH WASHNet** meets on 28.105 MHz at 9:30 PM ET, starting with RTTY.

(Both 10 meter frequencies are +/- QRM).

All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly **"The Mariner™"**) is the Official Newsletter of the **Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. (WASH)**

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"The WASHRag", "The Mariner", SHARCFest, South Hills Hamfest, WASHfest, WASHfest 2000, N3SH Net, WA3SH Net & WASH Net are ™ trademarks of the **Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.**

The **Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.** was founded in 1993 as the original South Hills Amateur Radio Club, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the "N3SH Amateur Radio Club." It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, its members, or its actions in any way shape or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3RN/R Repeater System and the N3FFP/R Repeater System for permitting the **Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.** and its members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test October 21st!

Our Next VE exam session will be **Thursday, October 21, 1999**, at **7:00 PM**, at the *John McMillan Presbyterian Church*, 875 Clifton Road, Bethel Park, PA. Talk-in on 146.955 MHz. All examiners are ARRL affiliated. Morse code exams are multiple-choice. Walk-ins are welcome, but if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Bob Sanford AA3FI, telephone (724)-356-4020 or E-Mail: sanfordb@access.hky.com

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

Check or Cash in the amount of \$6.45 (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Remember: Novice written (element 2) and 5 wpm (element 1A) code exams are **free**.

FYI Networks, an internet provider in the Pittsburgh & surrounding ares since 1995, is offering all members of WASH their Basic Internet account, normally \$20/month, for only \$15/month. This includes 1 e-mail box, 3 MB of disk space, web page hosting, Telnet & FTP access. Call FYI toll-free 877-FYI-4NET, or e-mail them at sales@fyi.net, for more details or to sign up. **You must mention that you are a member of the Wireless Association of South Hills to get the discount rate.** Many thanks to FYI Networks for making us this special offer available.

WASH Club Shirts Now Available!

Ham Threads of Perry, MI can provide embroidered Polo shirts with the club logo (well, almost) for only \$22.95 per shirt (S M L XL; \$2/shirt more for 2X 3X & 4X shirts) when we place a group order. If you'd like your name & call on the shirt, the cost is \$8 more per shirt to cover the extra setup involved. Shirts are available in a variety of colors, including Black, White, Forest Green, Natural (Cream), Gold, Red, **Navy Blue**, Royal Blue, California Blue, and "almost any color you can think of." Delivery time is 2 to 3 weeks.

You can now order your shirts directly from Ham Threads. Make checks payable to Ham Threads. We've made up a sample "order form" on the inside of the back page, but you can use whatever you'd like (just make sure you mention it's part of the club group order!).

Send your order to *Ham Threads, PO Box 679, Perry MI 48872* or call (517) 625-5037. Their email address is dbirdsley@aol.com.

Help Wanted: A vacancy is opening in the ARRL Contest Branch for a Contest Assistant. Interested persons should contact me as soon as possible for more information (send e-mail to henderson@arrl.org or phone 860-594-0232). Resumes can be emailed to me at this address, faxed to (860) 594-0259, or mailed to ARRL Contest Branch, 225 Main St., Newington CT 06111-1494.

— Dan Henderson, N1ND ARRL Contest Branch Manager

N3SH Status: As of newsletter deadline, we are still awaiting word from the FCC. Based on the last incident, we will have to be patient. Meantime, again remember that club members are advised to refrain from using N3SH on the air to avoid problems. And isn't it sadly ironic that these incidents give us a legitimate reason to continue to also hold the club call WA3SH?

Don't forget that if you're storing club gear for us, and haven't already done so, make sure our Quartermaster KB3CPI knows what you have and what type of condition it's in. Harold's is in the process of compiling an up-to-date WASH property inventory so that we know what we have and who's got it.

Planning to operate in the PA QSO Party? Need computer logging software? Check out the 1999 version of KA3JWE's excellent freeware package at <http://www.enter.net/~donster/>. Ye Editor used it last year with surprisingly good results & highly recommends it... and the price is right, too!

ARRL Atlantic Division elections appear to be coming up soon (has it been 2 years already?) Watch your mail for info from the candidates. And speaking of elections, ours aren't too far off, so time to start thinking about next year's club officers.

Tired of high-priced hamfest "food"? KA3UPY & WN3VAW are going to again have a mini-club picnic at the Butler Hamfest on September 12. Look for us in the area near the entrance road by the grandstand side of the lake (the flaming flea-marketers?).

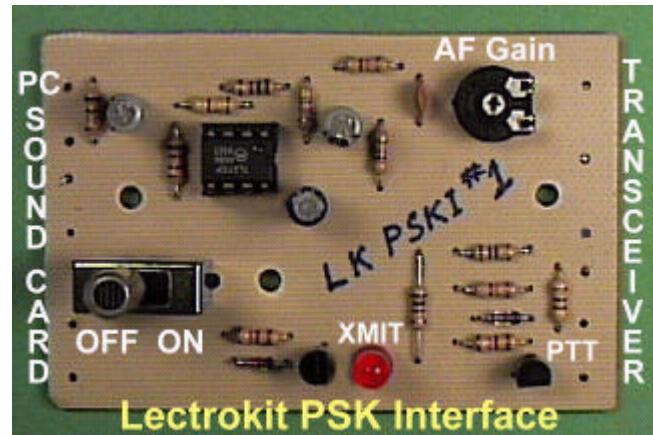
We've talked about a club kit project night. Here's something to ponder for discussion at the next club meeting:

"While researching another article on PSK-31 (for next month's *WASHRag*), I found a small company that offers a complete PSK-31 interface kit for around \$16.00. You supply the connectors for your rig and soundcard. I took one look at their product and thought to myself "Geez, that would make a GREAT club project!!!"

So here's the deal: Anyone interested in trying to build a PSK-31 kit after one of our club meetings, or on another Thursday evening of your collective choice, simply email me at slane@adelphia.net or call me at (412) 341-1043. I'll phone in an order for the kits and we can spend an evening putting them all together.

Anybody game to try this exciting new mode with me?"

— Steve Lane W3SRL



Minutes, July 8th 1999 Meeting

Steve Lane W3SRL Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Meeting called to order at 19:15 local time by WN3VAW, 14 members were present.

A moment of silence for Silent Keys was observed.

Introductions were made.

Minutes of the June meeting were read & approved. N3QMV/W3WH Treasurer Report given by N3RDV. Approved & seconded.

Secretary – W3SRL: Nothing notable to report.

VE – KE3XB: 3 VE's confirmed for the July 11 Session, please be there.

Repeater – W3SRL: Receiver to get overhauled on 2m, Autopatch possible on 440 machine.

2m NET – NCS operators still needed. KE3XB volunteered for July 18.

Digital Net – KE3XB: Will be intermittent through summer.

Contests – WN3VAW: FD Wrap-up – 366 contacts, only 4 dupes.

KQ3DX is still compiling the data. We'll need 20-25 pins. Special thanks to those who came and helped out with setup & tear-down. Good site, good food, Good time had by all.

Newsletter – WN3VAW: Roughly 100 copies are in circulation each month. General discussion that the Treasurer's report should be deleted from the minutes published in the newsletter. A note will be substituted that the report was received and approved.

President – WN3VAW: 610B was filed to change the club's name on the N3SH call to our current name. Suggested that we have a picnic for the August meeting instead of our regular meeting. KE3XB / W3WH approved. Date set for Saturday, August 14th at Mineral Beach.

Old Business: We plan to continue to hold 2 calls. W3WH suggested that the WA3SH call be put on the 440 repeater.

New Business: N3RDV knows someone to demo ATV, if there is interest. Also, there are numerous events on the ARES calendar. Lots of opportunities to volunteer. W3SRL: Possible ARES participation in Y2K planning. More to follow.

Good of the order: WN3VAW – Looking for new ideas for fall events.

N3ZNI – Would like to go to Mt. Davis again. WN3VAW – Hamfest 2000 planning under way. W3SRL needs a Co-Chair to help out.

W3SRL – Need ideas for special event stations.

Adjourned at 20:05 hours N3RDV/W3RJM.

Picnic Wrap-Up: The club picnic/meeting on August 14th was a lot of fun for everyone that was able to make it. Everyone had a great time! Congrats to N3XI for making a QRP 20 meter QSO on W3SRL's gear, & thanks to KE3XB for bringing his HF setup for a quick PSK31 & digital mode demo. Special thanks to Sandy N3ZEG & Julie (Mrs. WN3VAW) for organizing the picnic — the food was great!

There is a new 10 meter repeater on 29.66 MHz in Carroll County, Ohio. Receive Freq. 29.66 MHz FM. Transmit Freq. 29.56 MHz FM, Vertical Polarization. Amateurs with 10 Meter FM Capability in SW PA are being asked to see if they can access (and use) this new machine.
— Dan Mutigli N8LVQ, EC, Carroll County Ohio ARES via N3DOK

Really want to tick someone off? Just point out to them that 2000 is NOT the first year of the 21st century, but the last year of the 20th! Why? Because there was no Year 0 (the calendar went from 1 BC to 1 AD), which means the first decade ended in year 10, the first century in 100, the first millennium in 1000... extrapolate from there. That's also why that movie was named "2001: A Space Oddessy," after the first year of the 3rd Millennium. Of course, expect to be accused of being too literal minded or not knowing what you're talking about since OBVIOUSLY 2000 is the first year of the 21st Century. And don't mention that banks knew about the Y2K "bug" in 1969-70 (Think 30 year mortgages...).

Minutes, August 14th 1999 Meeting

Steve Lane W3SRL Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Meeting called to order at 13:10 hours by WN3VAW. 14 members were present.

A moment of silence for Silent Keys was observed.

Introductions were made.

Minutes of the July 8th meeting were read W3RJM/N3ZNI 2M Net: – N3KEH: Doing fine.

Contests – WN3VAW: FD Pins on backorder. PA QSO coming up.

Treasurer – W3SRL read the report for N3RDV. Approved.

Repeater – N3RNX: 440 machine moving to new site. Parts on order for 2 meter machine.

Newsletter – WN3VAW: Need more articles from club members.

President – WN3VAW: N3SH call sign was reassigned back to SHARC Inc. A second complaint was filed with FCC. Use WA3SH & discontinue use of the N3SH call sign until further notice.

Secretary – W3SRL: R. Lentz never replied to the first complaint & inquiry from the FCC. Call was reassigned back to us by default.

VE Exams – WN3VAW for AA3FI: Next VE session is in October 21st. Please be there.

Hamfest – W3SRL: WASHfest 2k to be on February 20, 2000. W3WH has volunteered to co-chair.

Old Business: None

New Business: W3SRL: Looking for ideas for special event stations. W3WH: Pony League World Series in Washington, PA; When we get N3SH back, Sweepstakes, PA QSO Party.

Good of the order: Special thanks to Sandy, N3ZEG and Julie, Mrs. WN3VAW for coordinating the picnic.

Adjourned at 13:30 hours. W3SRL/W3RJM

The next South West Pennsylvania Packet Group meeting will be on September 19, 1999, 1 PM at the Blue Flame Restaurant located on PA Route 51, about 8 miles south of Pittsburgh.

This group provides packet radio operations including, bbs systems, packet node systems, and an internet gateway to the Ham Radio World Wide Converse Server. Most of its operations are on 145.69 MHz, although the Internet gateway is on 145.07 and 147.585 MHz with the calls W8IOU-6 and N3PJJ-1 respectively.

More information is available via email from k3mi@juno.com or geno@zelie.com; via Packet Mail, WA3IOU@WA3IOU.#SWPA.PA.USA.NOAM; or at their web page: swppg@zelie.com — KC3ET via N3DOK

"We are happy to announce a series of Ham UPGRADE sessions. These are free of charge and designed to help Hams upgrade their license. This is a very good idea in light of possible pending FCC license structure changes. Sessions will be September 17th, October 15th, October 29th & November 19th, 7:00 PM at the New Beginnings Church of the Nazarene in Plum, 200 Center-New Texas Road. Sessions will include advice on preparation for the exams, study plans, diagnostic testing to identify weak areas, tutoring, and a VE session. Instructors will include Lauren Cousins, W3DZU; Ted Mallick, K3NZB; Leonard Budd, KD3QQ.

Pre registration is recommended by September 8th so that materials can be ordered and provided at a discount if needed. Call Leonard Budd, KD3QQ at (412) 795-0700 AM; (412) 793-3939 afternoons; or (724) 327-2429 PM or send E-Mail to KD3QQ@qsl.net." — Leonard Budd, KD3QQ

Is There Life for a DX'er After the Tri-Bander Is Gone?

Bill Hill W3WH billhill@nb.net

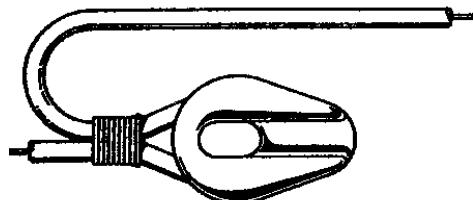
The answer is a resounding **yes!** This past April, Linda and I moved to a Villa (that's almost a synonym for a town house) in Chartiers Township. We live in a five unit building that's brand new, and I don't have to mow any grass.

I knew I would like living there, but the only lingering doubt I had was how well I'd do with much more humble antennas than I became accustomed to at the old QTH. For those who may not know, I used to have a 60 foot tower with a HyGain TH6DXX on top of it. Needless to say it worked very well; I accrued about 280 countries with that wonderful antenna.

Since I already owned an ICOM 706, I decided to try ICOM's automatic random wire tuner. Actually they say anything over 23 feet will work as long as it's not a half wave or a multiple of a half wave on any of the frequencies you plan to use. The tuner will work from 80 to 6 meters.

After the tuner arrived from AES, Bob W3RJM and Richie N3SBF came over one afternoon and we installed the tuner about 10 feet in the air with 80 feet of wire running to a tree at the back of the property. We also added a quarter-wave counterpoise for each band. The rest is history! Since then, I've worked more than 60 countries on all continents. I think these results are really astonishing!

With the push of a button the tuner reaches a match on all bands in about 1.5 seconds. Although the tuner is a bit pricey (about \$300), for me the investment has been well worth the money.



Of course, I'm not satisfied yet, and I'm in the process of installing a vertical. I'll let you know how they compare in a couple of months. This tuner and its long wire obviously won't replace the TH6DXX (*you can't have it back!* — WN3VAW) but it will sure allow me to continue working DX, which is what I really love to do.

See you in the pileups!

IOTA 2000

RSGB IOTA Committee & Chiltern DX Club
Courtesy Bernie McClenny W3UR

The UK DX Foundation announce the establishment of the IOTA Millennium Program - IOTA 2000. The purpose of this program is to celebrate the Millennium, to promote IOTA activity and to have fun on the HF bands. The IOTA 2000 Program will be administered by CDXC on behalf of the RSGB IOTA Committee.



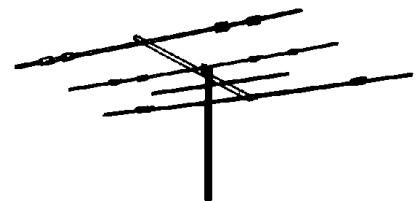
The objective of IOTA 2000 is to contact as many different IOTA island groups as possible within the Millennium year 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2000 on the HF bands. There are two types of contact that count for credit – premium contacts and normal contacts. Premium contacts are made during particular months and

The Guys & Mr. Murphy

Lee Buller KOWA kowa@southwind.net

NAQP-CW was a loss for me. But, I have a nice, refurbished TH6DXX at 60 feet now!

The guys came over to help me tram it up over the house. We started at 7 am by taking down the TA-33 (which was hit by lightning) and ended at 12:30 pm when they stepped off the tower. (At that time it was 95 degrees with a relative humidity of 95 percent outside. It was one of those days where you felt like you were swimming underwater)



Now it is time to get on.... Nope! Got to take them out for pizza. You think they did a whole day's work. Now, these guys are contesters, but for some reason they wanted some beverage and pizza. It was hot, but.... So, off to Pizza Hut we go to eat pizza and have our beverage. All the time, thinking of all the contest time I was missing.

- 3:30 - back at the house. One guy leaves, the other guy wants to yak. He falls asleep in the shack, I secretly and quietly make 50 Qs while he sleeps.
- 4:30 - time to see the other guy off. Wave good-bye to my buddy and look to the south and see massive thunder clouds rolling in.
- 4:35 - check 20 meters. Nothing but lightning crashes. Can't hear a thing Turn off rig, unplug coax, rotor and pull breakers. Go into the house.
- 5:00 - Rain hits and 50 mile an hour wind.
- 6:00 - Rain stops - TH6DXX OK - tower OK - Power goes out.
- 6:30 - Watch the power crew repair a 12,000 volt line which burned in two down the block. No A/C inside. Everyone is outside in the neighborhood.
- 8:00 - Power back on - Air conditioner whirling - I am back on the air...rate, rate, rate,
- 9:30 - I wake up after dozing off for 30 minutes. Rate shot to heck.....my back is shot to heck too. Tired and grumpy.
- 10:00 - In bed and fast asleep....thinking about next weekend and January NAQP Had to give this one to old Murphy.

At least, I got a TH6DXX on the air.

I love NAQP.....

score extra points. A series of attractive certificates - the gold, silver and bronze certificates - will be available as will participation certificates.

Nevada Communications of the UK have agreed to sponsor the IOTA 2000 Program. This sponsorship will cover the costs of administration and certificate design. (www.nevada.co.uk)

Details of IOTA 2000 can be found at www.cdx.org.uk and the rules together with a listing of island groups, including the months when premium scores are made, can be downloaded from this site. This program should be great fun - no QSL cards are required. Please contact iota.hq@rsgb.org.uk with any queries.

(Editor's Note: Someone needs to tell RSGB & CDXC that the millennium starts on 1 January 2001... 2000 is the last year of this millennium!)

OFFICIAL RULES: The 42nd Annual 1999 PENNSYLVANIA QSO PARTY

October 9th and 10th, 1999

Sponsored by the Nittany Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 614, State College, Pa.16801-0614

OPERATING PERIODS: 1600Z, October 9 to 0500Z October 10 and 1300Z October 10 to 2200Z October 10, 1998

FREQUENCIES: SSB...1850+, 3980, 7280, 14280, 21380, 28310, 50.125, 146.55; CW...40 khz up from the bottom and 1810 Try 160 meters at 0300 Z, (11pm Saturday night) - Band plan below

TECH & TECH PLUS....28310, 50.125, 146.55. VHF QSOs ARE permitted and encouraged. However, QSOs on 12, 17 & 30 meters are NOT permitted. **MOBILE WINDOW**... 5 khz below listed frequencies. KEEP CLEAR FOR WEAK MOBILES! Special High Band Activity Periods: Saturday & Sunday: 10m - 1800Z; 15m - 1900Z; 20m - 2000Z SSB on the hour, CW on the half hour!! Watch your 160M frequencies. The band plan is: 1.800 - 1.830 CW; 1.850 - 2.000 SSB (Keep 1.830-1.850 open for DX QSOs ONLY!)

EXCHANGES: Sequential SERIAL # (number) plus COUNTY or ARRL/RAC SECTION.

Stations on COUNTY LINES will give out ONE serial number per QSO but all counties count as multipliers. Work MOBILES and ROVERS as they change counties. Stations may be re-worked on different bands and different modes.

SCORING: QSO POINTS: - CW QSOs on 160 & 80 = 2 points
Other CW QSOs = 1.5 points
All SSB QSOs = 1 point

MULTIPLIERS: PA Stations: ARRL sections + RAC sections (NOT Nunavut)+ PA counties + 1 (only) DX (151 total)

Out of State Stations: Pennsylvania Counties (67 total)

FINAL SCORE: Total POINTS ...X....MULTIPLIERS

BONUS MULTIPLIERS: QRP stations (under 5 watts) multiply your final score by 2!

NOVICE/TECH/TECH PLUS multiply your final score by 3! (If both QRP & Nov/Tech by 5!) Pennsylvania **MOBILES** add 500 points for each county activated (10 QSOs minimum). Pennsylvania **ROVERS** add 500 points for each location operated from (10 QSOs min.)

The following constitute multipliers in the Party:

The 67 Counties of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

The 70 ARRL Sections as listed on page 12 (Usually) of QST

The 13 Canadian Provinces or areas: Alberta (VE6), British Columbia (VE7), Labrador (VO2), Manitoba (VE4), New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Northwest Territories, Ontario (VE3), Prince Edward Is, Quebec (VE2), Saskatchewan (VE5), Yukon (VY1) (Nunavut is NOT a multiplier.)

One **DX** multiplier - only 1 - do NOT include DX stations which are part of ARRL sections (Pacific, KV4, KP4)

151 total multipliers (Now there is a "Clean Sweep" to shoot for - NO ONE HAS EVER DONE IT!)

ROVER Division: The ROVER division is intended for those who can not go true mobile but would like to activate some rare counties by going to a State Park or farmer's field and throwing up a dipole or a 5 element beam on 2 meters. General rules: Go as many places as you want; you must use a portable antenna; you must move to a new county; and you must travel a minimum of 5 miles between locations, you must make 10 QSOs from each location to qualify for the 500 point bonus. Identify by using /R on CW or "rover" on SSB or FM.. (Remember that "Billy" Penn in his infinite wisdom placed many of the Pennsylvania County Lines on TOP OF MOUNTAINS - great for two meter DX and giving out rare counties during the Party!)

SPECIAL EVENT STATION: Each year, a different Pennsylvania Club will set up and operate a special event station as part of the Party. This year, The Carbon Amateur Radio Club (The Carbon ARCS) in recognition of their long time support for the QSO Party, will man the designated special event station using their club call, W3HA. Add 200 POINTS for EACH QSO with the special event station. - these are added AFTER all other bonus' have been taken.

ENTRY DIVISIONS:

Single Operator, Medium Power (150W) - Plaque presented to both EPA and WPA winners.

Single Operator, High Power - Plaque presented to both EPA and WPA winners.

QRP (5 watt) - Intended for those who are indeed using QRP equipment!

Multi- single operator (ONLY one signal at a time!)

Multi-operator - multi-transmitter

Portable: (single op or multi-single only)

Novice/Tech/Tech Plus

Mobile: May be single op or multi-single only (NOT Multi-Multi)

Rover

CW Only - Single Operator - power limited to 150 watts ONLY

NOTE: If you use both VHF and HF, the VHF transceiver does NOT make you multi-multi!

But, you can only have one signal at a time!

AWARDS: See Pennsylvania QSO Party Home Page for plaque sponsors!

PLAQUES: to top scores in ALL ENTRY DIVISIONS (above) - (Rover division if enough entries); and to top single op EPA & WPA - medium power; Top CANADIAN entry: Top Single op from EASTERN, CENTRAL, MOUNTAIN, AND PACIFIC time zones.

CERTIFICATES: to all county, section and DX winners.

TROPHY to club with top aggregate score (Club membership chairman MUST submit current roster of members for all club awards.)

"WORKED ALL 67" PLAQUES : Stations working all 67 counties during the Party. QSOs will be verified by the committee from log information. To order, submit a special summarysheet AND YOUR LOG ON A COMPUTER DISK! (in addition to your regular entry summary) listing county, call of station worked, date and time of QSO, and numbers sent and received. Enclose a Check for \$25.00 payable to "The Nittany Amateur Radio Club".

PARTICIPATION COFFEE MUGS: Anyone who makes 100 QSOs or more during the Party is eligible for a hansome PA QSO Party Coffee Mug. To order, include your log showing 100 QSOs and a check for \$9.50 made payable to "The Nittany Amateur Radio Club".

SPECIAL PLAQUE FOR FIRST TIME ENTRANT FROM PA: Intended to encourage new contestants, a plaque will be awarded to the top single operator entry from Pennsylvania who enters the Party for the first time. (Not intended for "Big Guns" from other contests! Be honest there, Abe!)

ENTRY SUBMISSIONS: Computer Disks are the preferred method of entry!! Printed log not required but they must include a summary sheet and a list of multipliers worked.. Paper entries must include the log sheets, a summary sheet, and dupe sheets (if more than 100 QSOs made per band/mode). Log sheets must show Band, Mode, Time, Full Exchange, Call & QTH received.

It is recommended that an OFFICIAL SUMMARY SHEET be included with each entry. In addition to normal name/address/phone etc., (Official Summary Sheet is downloadable.) SUMMARY SHEETS MUST include the following:

Class of entry, power level, and whether a home/portable/mobile/ or rover station.

County and section

Pennsylvania Club Affiliation (Clubs must submit a club roster to be considered for club awards)

Time zone in which you reside.

Number of QSOs on 160/80 CW; Other CW QSOs; SSB QSOs

Number of Counties, Sections, and DX worked

Specifics of QSOs with Special events station

Summary of your bonus points taken.

SEND LOGS by November 15, to: Douglas Maddox, W3HDH, RD #1, Box 760, Petersburg, PA 16669. E-Mail logs will be accepted FROM OUT OF STATE STATIONS ONLY. Send as an e-mail attachment to "na2x@arrl.net". DO NOT send the ".qdf" file.

A DONATION of \$1.00 OR TWO with your entry to help defray the costs of mailing, printing, etc. would be greatly appreciated. PLEASE NO SASE - they only get lost!!.

QSO PARTY COMPUTER LOGGING PROGRAMS:

There are a number of PA QSO Party logging programs available. Contact their authors directly for info:

K3CP (DLARC, KA3MOU, 120 McIlhaney Ave, Bath, PA 18014 (KA3MOU@enter.net)

KM3D Harry Bump, Box 392, Richland, PA 17087 (bump@redrose.net)

Download Version "N" or newer

WINDOWS Version: <http://users.desupernet.com/bump/km3d.htm>

NA Contest logging program: Radio Bookstore of New Hampshire

1-800-457-7373

EOF software, 396 Sauter Dr. Coraopolis, PA 15108 (n3eqf@usa.net)

KA3JWE - WINDOWS version - Web site: (<http://www.enter.net/~donster/>)

Writelog - (www.contesting.com/writelog/)

INFORMATION PACKET including complete rules, summary form, record high scores, and a list of county/sections is available. #10 SASE to the above address or a request may be sent via E-Mail to dougHDH@AOL.COM or via packet to K3CM @ W3YA.#CEN.PA.USA.NOAM.. Persons who have participated in the party in 1997 or later will automatically receive these materials.

Don't forget the Friday night net to find out what everyone is planning. Last year, we had over 75 check-ins! The net is held at about 8:00pm, Friday night, October 8, on 75 meter LSB, 3910 kHz.

WASH Members planning to operate in the PA QSO Party are encouraged to notify Don N3KEH. We'd like to have some idea of where our members will be operating from AND be able to match up anyone who'd like to operate with others who need help. Don will also be tracking submitted scores for the WASH Club competition — who will be our top op in 1999?

Wireless Association of South Hills

1999 Membership Roster

Through August 1999

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer, WASH

| | |
|--------|-----------------------|
| AA3FI | Bob Sanford |
| AA3JS | Samantha Sanford |
| KA3JZR | George E Lang |
| KA3TWI | Rev. Leo A Latona |
| KA3UPY | Al Herrle |
| KA3WZO | Don Fincher |
| KB3ANH | Matt Matter |
| KB3CPI | Harold C. Rosenberger |
| KB3DCO | Fred Beighley |
| KB3DSB | Ashley Sanns |
| KB3DSC | Brian Keefe |
| KB3ECD | Frank Thompson |
| KE3XB | John G. Benitez |
| KQ3DX | Greg Babin |
| N2QIV | Randy Ide |
| N3IDH | David DeMotte |
| N3KEH | Don Vollant |
| N3KFD | Frank Thompson |
| N3OBD | Freeman J. Phillips |
| N3OOO | Dave Westhead |
| N3QMV | Dick Barney |
| N3RDV | Mark Stabryla |
| N3RNX | Pete Cole |
| N3SBF | Richard Danko |
| N3SRC | Richard Armstrong |
| N3TBK | Chuck Morreale |
| N3UE | Ed Wolf |
| N3UIW | Richard M Novotny |
| N3VEH | Bonnie Sanford |
| N3VOC | Eric Hegerle |
| N3VVL | Kenny Ide |
| N3VWF | David J. Leipold |
| N3WAV | Robert Livrone |
| N3WOT | Tracey Hegerle |
| N3WPT | Robert Ashcraft |
| N3XFE | William T Keifner |
| N3XI | Frank Sanns Jr |
| N3YPB | Linda Allison |
| N3ZCG | Jacqueline Sanford |
| N3ZEG | Sandy Lane |
| N3ZEH | Thomas Merendino |
| N3ZEL | Jacqueline Y Gosselin |
| N3ZEO | Cindy Coventry |
| N3ZNI | Ed Oelschlager |
| N4MIS | Chuck Nice |
| NP2JF | Paul Jordan |
| W3HEA | William G Hinds |
| W3RJM | Bob McCloskey |
| W3SRL | Steve Lane |
| W3VFA | Ed Salva |
| W3WH | William R Hill |
| WN3BOJ | Ted Pinsker |
| WN3VAW | Ron Notarius |
| | Carol Danko |

Not on this list? Want to be? Membership application for the rest of 1999 is in the back of the newsletter!

QRP Portable Operating

Steve Lane W3SRL/QRP

We set out for our family's summer vacation in late July, with the destination being North Myrtle Beach, SC. This year was a little different however, as we were planning to stay right on the beach in our new (used) Coleman pop-up camping trailer.

We had been planning this trip for months, counting on a week+ away from work, phones, pagers etc. I had been told very early on "NO COMPUTERS!" Yes dear, no problem there. I spend more than enough time working with computers at work to really not miss them while on vacation. She didn't say anything at all about radios, though! <grin>

While my Icom 706 has been a more or less permanent fixture in my Jeep since early summer, I hadn't had much opportunity to operate portable this year. My trusty little MFJ-9420 20m QRP rig had been packed away under the seat in the camper for most of the season. Being away for 8 days should present at least a couple of opportunities to operate!

We arrived at the beach, and were assigned a really nice spot in the campground that was only about 120 feet or so from the beach.

Furthermore, we had a nice, tall palm tree right behind the camper for a center antenna support. Wahooo!



Early the next day, while the kids were still eating breakfast inside the camper, old dad was tossing a line up in said tree for the folded dipole. The ends sloped down nicely at 45 degrees each and were tied off to the wooden fence below. A 20-foot piece of RG-8x completed the installation, with the aid of an SO-239 barrel splice I carry in the bag with the rest of the radio gear. I hastily threw the rest of the little station together, and pushed the power button, but was greeted with the familiar dial light, but that soon flickered and then went out. Fantastic. My only battery was dead! Oh well, out came the wall-wart charger, and the adapter plug for the 2.3Ah camcorder battery that I normally use. Tomorrow is another day.

We woke very early the next morning to howling wind, and a torrential downpour. Amazingly, the camper stayed dry, and the dipole withstood the storm. Boy were we glad we weren't in a tent this time! Things cleared up by noon, and we all went for a dip in the ocean right after lunch. Mid-afternoon is nap time for Sandy and the kids. I sometimes join them, but today I had a mission! I plugged the rig back into the NiCad pack and this time success!

The band was wide open, and Numerous DX and stateside stations were not only heard, but worked! That little MFJ rig sure does have one hot little receiver! In short order, I worked a whole slew of 1-land stations, some 5-land stations and more 7-stations than I have EVER worked! Europe was in, as was the middle east. Ireland, Spain, and France went into the log PDQ. The following day, very late in the afternoon I spent nearly an hour trying to bag Z31ET, Macedonia. Persistence paid off.

(QRP Continued on Page 8)

www.reflections.net

Misc. News Briefs from Internet Reflectors & List Servers

There have been Internet rumors lately that the venerable R. L. Drake Company is being bought out by European communications powerhouse Grundig. To a request for verification posted on the Drake reflector at www.qth.net, Chuck N8GMB responded: "False

rumor. (But) Drake and Grundig are combining talents for certain model radios coming out under the Grundig name, such the long awaited "800 Millenium" due out about October. Drake is providing the shortwave expertise, with the sound and box from Grundig."

And if you're looking for hard to find Drake parts, check out their "Last Chance Parts", http://www.rldrake.com/tech/parts/LCP_List.html. Drake has found some very small quantities of remaining odds 'n' ends in their repair shops that they are making available, while supplies last.

Speaking of venerable names, ever what ever happens to old radio company logos and other trademarks? The Hallicrafters Collectors Association was contacted by Professional Electronics Co., Inc. of Alabaster, AL, the current owners of the trademark. Robert Bolstad KC6VIH reported to the Hallicrafters reflector "Their website is <http://www.hallicrafters.com>. They have a Hallicrafters telephone number: 205-664-1937. I don't know the purpose of this number as I haven't telephoned to find out." The trademark was filed in February of 1997 and registered in May of 1998. At last report, HCA was talking to PEC about their use of the trademark on the HCA web site, www.hallicrafters.org, and the use by the HCA of the "@hallicrafters.org" email addresses. HCA has discontinued use of most of those addresses until further notice according to their web site.

There are a ton of email list servers and reflectors out on the Internet for almost any interest a ham can have. Most of the reflectors are text based, not web based, for those with Juno or other limited email access. Check out the www.qth.net server, part of Al Waller K3TKJ's free www.qsl.net system, which includes free email forwarding and free personal web pages for any amateur interested.

(QRP Continued from Page 7)

What seemed at first to be impossible, had now been done. With 10 watts and an off-the-shelf folded dipole.

So you ask "How do you break a pileup with 10 watts?" Most folks don't. I've never had much luck with 100 watts. I think the key here is technique. Waiting for just the right lull to throw out the last two letters of your call. NOT repeating your call over and over on a single try. Announcing that you are QRP. Despite the occasional lid, most operators will respect your limitation and give you a shot.

I can't tell you that it works every time, but occasionally it does. And when it does, you can bet it'll take quite a while to wipe the silly grin off your face.

Suffering from the 'been there, done that' syndrome? Get out of the shack and try portable. QRP if you dare! Safe, sane, legal and more fun than a barrel of monkeys. Catch you on 14.285!



DX News Briefs

W7RNF is now QRV as **5H8TL**. He is the first to use the 5H8 prefix. Look for him on 15 SSB from 1800-1900Z, & on 20 SSB from 0400Z. Length of stay unknown. QSL Via W7RNF — 59(9) Report



V63PD is the "only remaining resident station" in the Chuuk (formerly Truk) Islands (IOTA OC-011). He's on 40 – 10, including WARC, mainly SSB. QSL via VK4AAR. — OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News

8J2POS is active through November to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Port of Shimizu. QSL via bureau. — JH2AHZ

Look for **OH0/K7BV** (Aland Islands) & **OJ0/K7BV** (Market Reef) September 14-20. He will operate on 10-160 including WARC bands, SSB & CW. QSL via KU9C. — K7BV

PA3GIO plans to be active as **S79GI**, September 2-14. QSL to PA3GIO, preferably via the bureau. — PA3GIO

All **ZL9CI** QSL envelopes rcvd. thru July 31 have been processed. QSLs with inadequate \$\$/IRC's will go via ZL buro — ZL2HU

ON4QY now active as **3XY2A**. He expects to be in Guinea for "a couple of years." QSL to ON4QY — Go List DX Alert for Sept.

IK2DUW is the new manager for **3W6LI**, **3W6KA**, **EK6LV**, **BA4RE**, **RUOLL** & **RUOLL/p**. QSL via CBA. — IK2DUW via K1XN



A major all-mode all-band DXpedition to **Clipperton Island** is being organized to take place from February 26 through March 15, 2000. The motor vessel for the voyage has been chartered; the license and landing permit have been issued. A multinational team of skilled and experienced operators is being gathered. Plans are to have six stations active from two operating camps. For further information contact John Kennon N7CQQ, n7cqq@laughlin.net — N7CQQ

PA3EPD, PAOVHA, PBOAIT & PE1ALV will be **3B8**/home call from **Mauritius Island** between September 23rd through October 10th. They will be active on all bands, with some 2 meter EME activity possible. QSL via home calls. — PA3EPD and PAOVHA

EA4DX is operating from **Tuvalu (T2)** until September 12, then as **3D2DX** until September 16. Look for him on 3795, 7042, 14195, 18135, 21295, 24945 and 28395 kHz. QSL via EA4CP — EA4DX

JO6WGJ is not the QSL manager for **BY7WGL**. QSL direct to P.O. Box 127, Guilin, 541002, People's Republic of China. — BD7NQ

QSL the Pitcairn ARC club station **VP6PAC** to Pitcairn ARC Station, Box 73, Pitcairn Island via New Zealand. — KB6NAN

F5JJW will be **FOOSUC** October 4-21, 1999, operating from a different IOTA island each week. QSL via F5JJW — F5NOD

In the July 29th Postal Bulletin, the US Postal Service announced **resumption of mail service** to Yugoslavia, Serbia and Montenegro, effective July 12. You don't need to add postage to returned mail. Just obliterate the words "Service Temporarily Suspended" from the envelope(s) and re-mail your QSL cards. — N5UR



Allegheny County ARES News

Bob Ferrey Jr. N3DOK,
EC, Allegheny County
(412) 367-2393 or n3dok@pgh.net

The ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Simulated Emergency Test (SET) will be held this year on November 13th.

The SET is a test of emergency communications in which members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and members of the National Traffic System (NTS) get to test their local and section wide nets. This gives communicators the opportunity to focus on the emergency communications capability within your community while interacting with NTS nets.

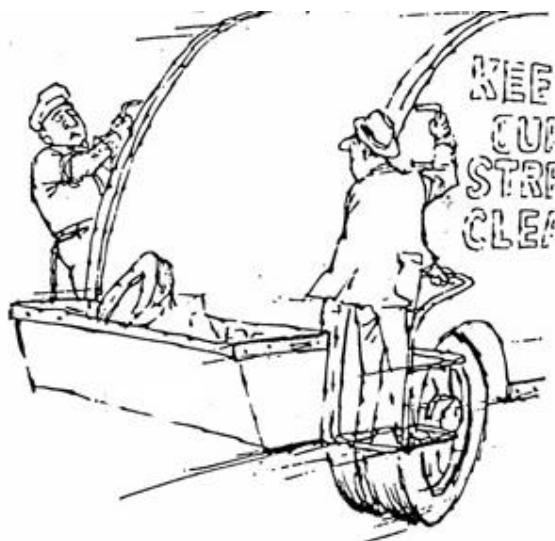
SET Purpose

1. To find out the strengths and weaknesses of ARES, NTS, RACES, SATERN and other groups in providing emergency communications.
2. To provide a public demonstration to served agencies such as the National Weather Service, Red Cross, Emergency Management Agencies and the news media of the value to the public that Amateur Radio provides, particularly in time of need.
3. To help radio amateurs gain experience in communications using standard procedures and a variety of modes under simulated emergency conditions.

Mark your calendars; more information to follow.

The Scavenger

From "an old 50's radio publication" Courtesy Bob W7AVK



"Of course, there are some days when none of those radios turn up, Mr. Claypool."

The Daily DX reports that DXpeditioner Yasuo "Zorro" Miyazawa, JH1AJT [7O1A XW30A XU1A E31A], voluntarily surrendered his Amateur Radio station license last May. Editor Bernie McClenney, W3UR, cited a telephone conversation with the Kanto Bureau of Telecommunications in Tokyo, Japan, as his source. Miyazawa was to have received the DXer of the Year Award at the New Orleans International DX Convention August 28. On June 16, the newspaper **Asahi Shimbun** reported that Miyazawa and another Japanese amateur were arrested after allegedly obtaining an operator license under false identification. — W3UR/The Daily DX (Vol. 3 #147), The ARRL Letter (Vol. 18 #34).

FCC Enforcement News

ARRLWeb Extra courtesy American Radio Relay League

WASHINGTON, DC, Aug 26, 1999 — The FCC has notified Andrew Penn, N8JVA, of Linden, Michigan, that it intends to designate his Amateur Radio station license for a revocation hearing before an administrative law judge. The FCC also intends to suspend Penn's Extra class operator license for the remainder of the license term, which ends February 22, 2004.

The action August 18 by the FCC's Compliance and Information Bureau stems from a case it inherited from the days when it shared enforcement duties with the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

Penn was a Volunteer Examiner for an examination session June 3, 1997, in Oak Park, Michigan, after which, the FCC alleges, the names of four applicants who did not sit for exams were added to the list of successful applicants. As a result of its continuing investigation of the case, the FCC last December 14 downgraded two amateur licensees and canceled the ticket of a third. Busted from Advanced to Tech Plus were Lawrence A. Repp Jr., N8HFN, of Gaylord, and Alan E. Quirie, KA8ZRR, of Royal Oak. The FCC pulled the Tech Plus ticket of Steven A. Penn, formerly KC8HUM, of Southfield. Andrew Penn is Steven Penn's father. The FCC says the name of an unidentified fourth ham was added to the list after the test session but the application was never submitted to the FCC.

The Commission says its evidence shows that Repp, Quirie, Steven Penn, and the unidentified fourth ham did not sit for the exams and that their names "were added and signatures forged, sometime after the tests were administered, by one of the four examiners." In addition, the FCC says, evidence indicates that Andrew Penn "applied the signatures of three VEs, without their knowledge, to the applications of four individuals."

The FCC says that three of the examiners knew nothing of the scheme. The other three VEs brought the situation to the attention of the ARRL-VEC and the FCC after learning that names had been added to the list and that their names apparently had been forged on the ARRL-VEC Administering VEs Record.

The FCC told Andrew Penn that he has the right to appear at a hearing on the record before an Administrative Law Judge and that he would be allowed to submit evidence in response to the FCC case. "Specific issues relating to your conduct at the Oak Park session and to your qualifications to be a Commission licensee would be detailed," the FCC said. "The Bureau's case would consist of sworn testimony by witnesses and of documentary evidence, both in its direct case and in any rebuttal presentation."

The administrative law judge would render an initial decision to the full Commission at the conclusion of the hearing. Andrew Penn had 20 days to indicate whether he intended to appear and present evidence at the proceeding. But the FCC also gave him the option of avoiding the hearing and terminating the investigation by submitting his Amateur Radio license for cancellation.



Inside This Issue:

- Complete Rules, 1999 PA QSO Party!
- The Wireless Association Club Roster
- QRP Operating, And DX Life After Yagi!
- SET 1999, IOTA 2000 and DX News!
- Murphy Strikes Again!

Much, much more... of course!



"QRP DX Is!"

**Steve W3SRL/4/QRP (& family & Camper)
operating from Myrtle Beach, SC**

**Story on Page 7
(Photo by Sandy Lake N3ZEG)**

The *WASHRag*

Ron Notarius WN3VAW, Editor
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